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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,033	12/11/2003	Cary J. Hoffer	200312174-1	8421

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EXAMINER	
RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2614	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/733,033	HOFFER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Melur Ramakrishnaiah	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 October 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *12-22-2003*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 5-9, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi et al. (US PAT: 6,525,932, filed 8-16-2000, hereinafter Ohnishi) in view of Yamane (US PAT: 6,285,833).

Regarding claim 1, Ohnishi discloses a portable computer, comprising: a base portion with a keyboard (40, fig. 1, 4-8), an electronic display (12, fig. 1) connected to the base portion, and a camera (420, figs. 4-9, col. 17, line 13 – col. 18, line 12) stored in the base portion (this reads on expansion unit 200, fig. 1 and 400 figs. 6-9 which includes camera being stored in the expansion bay slot in base (20, fig. 1) when not in use, col. 11 lines 39-40; col. 17 lines 7-12, col. 18 lines 30-35).

Ohnishi differs from claims 1-2 in that he does not specifically teach the following: camera automatically powers on when ejected from the base portion, and camera automatically powers off when inserted into the base portion.

However, Yamane discloses camera which teaches the following: flash unit (4, figs. 1-2) automatically powers on when ejected from the base portion, flash unit automatically powers off when inserted into the base portion (col. 4 lines 43-56).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Ohnishi's system to provide for the following: camera

automatically powers on when ejected from the base portion, and camera automatically powers off when inserted into the base portion as this arrangement would facilitate to conserve power usage by turning on power to the device on/off depending upon its usage condition as taught by Yamane.

Regarding claim 3, Ohnishi teaches the following: elongated mounting member (430, fig. 9) connected to the camera (420, col. 17 lines 30-33).

Regarding claim 4, Ohnishi teaches the following: mounting member has a cylindrical shape and provides electrical communication between the camera and the base portion (col. 17 lines 30-33).

Regarding claim 5, Ohnishi teaches the following: mounting member that mechanically and electrically couples the camera to the base portion (col. 17 lines 30-33).

Regarding claim 6, Ohnishi teaches the following: one end of the camera (420, fig. 9) is connected to a mounting member, the camera being movable about two different axes as indicated by arrows A and B in fig. 9 while connectec to the mounting member (col. 17, line 66 – col. 18, line 12).

Regarding claims 7-8, Ohnishi teaches the following: base portion (20, fig. 1) comprises a cavity and camera is mounted inside the cavity (this reads on expansion unit 200, fig. 1 and 400 figs. 6-9 which includes camera being stored in the expansion bay slot in base (20, fig. 1) when not in use and cavity is formed in a side of the base portion (20, fig. 1; col. 11 lines 39-40; col. 17 lines 7-12, col. 18 lines 30-35).

Regarding claim 9, Ohnishi teaches the following: the camera (420, figs. 4-9) is movable between a storage portion inside the base portion (20, fig. 1, this reads on expansion unit 200, fig. 1 and 400 figs. 6-9 which includes camera being stored in the expansion bay slot in base 20, fig. 1; fig. 1; col. 11 lines 39-40; col. 17 lines 7-12, col. 18 lines 30-35) and ejected position (fig. 9) disposed outside of the base portion, the camera being mechanically connected to the portable computer while in the ejected portion (figs. 4, 8-9).

Ohnishi differs from claims 11-12 in that he does not specifically teach the following: activating a switch located inside the computer while ejecting the camera from the computer to perform the automatically powering the camera on, activating the switch located inside the computer while inserting the camera into the computer to perform the automatically powering the camera off.

However, Yamane teaches the following: activating a switch (17, fig. 4) located inside the electronic device (1, figs. 1-2) while ejecting the flash unit (4, figs. 1-2, 4) from the electronic device to perform the automatically powering the flash unit on, activating the switch located inside the electronic device (1, figs. 1-2) while inserting the flash unit into the electronic device to perform the automatically powering the flash unit off (col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 34).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Ohnishi's system to provide for the following: activating a switch located inside the computer while ejecting the camera from the computer to perform the automatically powering the camera on, activating the switch located inside

the computer while inserting the camera into the computer to perform the automatically powering the camera off as this arrangement would facilitate to conserve power usage by turning on power to the device on/off depending upon its usage condition as taught by Yamane.

Regarding claim 13, Ohnishi further teaches the following: inserting the camera (420, figs. 6-9) into a cavity in the computer (100, figs. 6-8) so an outer surface of the camera forms an exterior surface of the computer (this reads on expansion unit 200, fig. 1 and 400 figs. 6-9 which includes camera being stored in the expansion bay slot in base (20, fig. 1) when not in use, col. 11 lines 39-40; col. 17 lines 7-12, col. 18 lines 30-35).

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi in view of Yamane as applied to claims 1, 9 above, and further in view of Boyden et al. (US 2003/0112325 A1, hereinafter Boyden).

The combination differs from claim 14 in that it does not teach the following: removing the camera from mechanical attachment to the computer, and transmitting wireless signals from the camera to the computer.

However, Boyden discloses camera positioning system which teaches the following: wireless transmitter (440, fig. 4) wirelessly transmitting camera signals to a wireless receiver (432) for further use (paragraph: 0079).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: removing the camera from mechanical attachment to the computer, and transmitting wireless signals

from the camera to the computer as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, for transmitting signals between the devices as taught by Boyden.

4. Claims 15-16 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi in view of Bucholz (EP 0998144A2).

Regarding claim 15, Ohnishi discloses the following: a computer (100, figs. 4-8), a camera (420, figs. 4-8) movable between a first position, wherein the camera is disposed in the computer in the first position (this reads on expansion unit 200, fig. 1 and 400 figs. 6-9 which includes camera being stored in the expansion bay slot in base (20, fig. 1) when not in use, col. 11 lines 39-40; col. 17 lines 7-12; col. 18 lines 30-35) and is mechanically detached in the second position (figs. 4, 8-9) from the computer in the second position, the camera being electrically coupled to the computer in the second position (col. 17 lines 30-34).

Regarding claims 16, 18-20, Ohnishi further teaches the following: camera has a housing that is completely disposed inside a cavity (reads on expansion bay slot) in the computer in the first position such that that housing forms an exterior surface of a the computer (col. 18 lines 30-35), computer comprises a mounting member, wherein the mounting member is disposed inside the computer in the first position and extends outwardly from the computer in the second position (figs. 4-9), camera is mechanically connected to the mounting member while in the first position (col. 17 lines 1-35).

Ohnishi differs from claimed invention in that he does not specifically teach use in video conferencing system.

However, Bucholz discloses portable computer for video conferencing applications (fig. 1, see abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Ohnishi's system to provide for the following: use in video conferencing system as this arrangement would facilitate portable video conferencing as taught by Bucholz.

5. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi in view of Bucholz as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Boyden.

The combination differs from claim 17 in that iit does not teach the following: camera transmits wireless signals to the computer while in the second position.

However, Boyden discloses camera positioning system which teaches the following: wireless transmitter (440, fig. 4) wirelessly transmitting camera signals to a wireless receiver (432) for further use (paragraph: 0079).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: camera transmits wireless signals to the computer while in the second position as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, for transmitting signals between the devices as taught by Boyden.

6. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi in view of Bucholz as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Yamane.

The combination differs from claim 20 in that it does not teach the following: the camera is in power-off position while in the first position and automatically transitions to

a power-in state when camera physically moves from the first position to the second position.

However, Yamane teaches the following: strobe flash (4, figs. 1-4) is in power-off position while in the first position and automatically transitions to a power-in state when strobe flash physically moves from the first position to the second position (col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 33).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: the camera is in power-off position while in the first position and automatically transitions to a power-in state when camera physically moves from the first position to the second position as this arrangement would facilitate to conserve power usage by turning on power to the device on/off depending upon its usage condition as taught by Yamane.

7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi in view of Yamane.

Regarding claim 10, Ohnishi teaches a method, comprising: ejecting the camera (420, figs. 4-9) from a computer (100, figs. 1, 4-9) and inserting the camera (420, fig. 4-9) in to the computer (this reads on expansion unit 200, fig. 1 and 400 figs. 6-9 which includes camera being stored in the expansion bay slot in base 20, fig. 1; col. 11 lines 39-40; col. 17 lines 7-12, col. 18 lines 30-35)

Ohnishi differs from claim 10 in that it does not teach the following: automatically powering a camera on/or off depending upon whether the camera is ejected/or inserted from/or in computer.

However, Yamane teaches the following: automatically powering a flash unit (4, figs. 1-4) on/or off depending upon whether the flash unit is ejected/or inserted from/or in electronic device (1, fig. 1, col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 34).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Ohnishi's system to provide for the following: automatically powering a camera on/or off depending upon whether the camera is ejected/or inserted from/or in computer as this arrangement would facilitate to conserve power usage by turning on power to the device on/off depending upon its usage condition as taught by Yamane.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614